



Getting Started with Finnish Research

Savannah Larson
Research Specialist
Savannah.Larson@FamilySearch.org

HISTORY TIMELINE

1686	A law was passed requiring parish records to be kept
1696-1697	Famine due to crop failures cause death in 30% of the rural population
1709	Plague and crop failure
1713-1721	Great Wrath
1741-1743	Russo-Swedish War
1753	Finland and Sweden switch to the Gregorian Calendar
1808	Finland was invaded by Russia
1809	Finland was taken over by Russia
1830s	Gothic Script transitions to Latin in the Records
1863	Language Decree marks the start of Finnish as an accepted record language
1917	Finnish Independence declared
1918	Finnish Independence secured/ Civil War breaks out
1920	Fixed Surnames become mandatory country wide

For More Finnish History

[Animated History of Finland](#) – there is an ad/promotion in middle, but more information after

[Main Outline of Finnish History](#) – This is a Finland Country Website

[History of Finland](#) – Wikipedia Article

[Finland History](#) – FamilySearch Wiki

RootsTech Connect Classes for Finland*

[Research Finns in Your Jammies! Finnish not Needed](#) - 23-minute RootsTech Class

[Preserving the Records of East Europe](#) - 14-minute RootsTech Class

**These classes will be available for free, online, until the 2022 RootsTech Conference.*

STRATEGY

1. *Start with what you KNOW*

Information from FamilySearch often includes a **place and date**, this is what you need to begin your research. If the person you want to learn more about does not have a place and date, try researching one of their children and working your way back.

2. *Find a vital record*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are typically the easiest to find based on starting information in the tree.

3. *Look for the farm name on the vital record*

View the image, not just the index, vital records will often list where a person is from in the parish, this information is helpful as you try to trace your family through other records.

4. *Use the farm name to locate the family in Confirmation and Pre-confirmation books.*

Indexes to household records are available on HisKi, FamilySearch, Ancestry, and MyHeritage. Image browsing is available on FamilySearch, Ancestry, and MyHeritage.

You can confirm that you have the right person by comparing the place they are living in, their age, and relationships.

5. *Follow the family through Confirmation and Pre-confirmation books.*

Now that you have found one household record, you can move forward and back in time. Are there any notes on the page about your family moving? If not, search the previous/next book on the same farm. If you cannot find them in the previous/next book on the same farm, search for another vital record to see if they have moved.

6. *Verify vital information in Household Records by searching for vital records*

7. *Repeat as needed*

For More on Research Strategy

[Research Strategy Articles](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Articles on how to start Finnish Research

[Finland Guided Research](#) – FamilySearch Wiki tool to help you as you start your research

For a demo of how to use this tool, click [here](#).

[Finland Record Finder](#) – Find what records to search based on the information you are looking for

[Finland Genealogy Research \(Part One\)](#) - Price Genealogy Research Guide

[Finland Genealogy Research \(Part Two\)](#) - Price Genealogy Research Guide

Finding Records Indexed Collections

* this indicates the same database is offered on multiple websites.

Website	Birth/Christening	Marriage	Death/Burial	Household Examination
FamilySearch	<u>1657-1890*</u>	<u>1682-1892*</u>	<u>1725-1909*</u>	<u>1657-1915*</u>
Ancestry (\$)	<u>1657-1890*</u>	<u>1682-1892*</u>	<u>1725-1909*</u>	<u>Pre-Confirmation 1670-1918</u> <u>Communion Books 1670-1917</u>
MyHeritage (\$)	<u>1657-1890*</u>	<u>1682-1892*</u>	<u>1725-1909*</u>	<u>1657-1915*</u>
HisKi	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>link</u>	-

With HisKi, you can check the transcription status of your parish by clicking [here](#), then choosing your county, and finding your parish in the table provided.

Browsable Image Collections

Website	Birth/Christening	Marriage	Death/Burial	Household Examinations
FamilySearch	<u>End 1600s – Late 1800s</u> (Type in name of Parish and find the result for church records - for more help, watch here)			
Ancestry (\$)	-	-	-	<u>Pre-Confirmation 1670-1918</u> <u>Communion Books 1670-1917</u>
Digihakemisto	<u>End 1600s-Late 1800s</u>			
SSHY (\$)	<u>End 1600s – Late 1800s</u>			
Digitalarkisto	<u>End 1600s - Late 1800s</u>			

Tutorials on how to use each website will be available by the end of 2021 on the following FamilySearch Wiki page: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Finland_Church_Records

Reference Materials

Dictionaries

[Finnish Word List](#) - FamilySearch Wiki

[Swedish Word List](#) - FamilySearch Wiki

[Reading Scandinavian Handwriting](#) - FamilySearch Learning Center Classes

Gazetteers and Parish Names

[Finnish Parish List](#) – Use this list to find the Finnish and Swedish names of parishes (when applicable)

[Finland Parish Pages](#) – Select County on clickable map, then find and click on the name of the parish – this will open a wiki page for that parish that includes place names within the parish

[Finland Gazetteers](#) - FamilySearch Wiki article

[Finland Maps](#) – FamilySearch Wiki article

[Finland Topographical Maps](#) – National Land Survey of Finland

Naming Patterns

[The Origin and Meaning of Finnish Surnames](#) - YouTube Video (8:52)

[Finland Personal Names](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[Nordic Names](#) – Name lookup tool

[Behind the Finnish Names](#) – More information on Finnish Given Names

[Surname Stories: Land of the –Nens](#) – Article from *This is Finland*

[Finnish Genealogy: The Finnish Naming System](#) – article from genealogia.fi

Further Help

1. Find Finland specific classes in the Learning Center [here](#)
2. Join the [Nordics Countries Genealogy Group](#) in the FamilySearch Community to ask your questions and get translation help
3. [Book a Free Virtual Genealogy Consultation](#) to meet one on one with a specialist and get personalized research strategy help